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Scientist Accuses CIA of World Plot to 'Debunk' UFOs

SYDNEY, Australia, July 8 (Reuters).—An American scientist contended Saturday that flying saucers were visiting the earth from another world and accused governments of a deliberate program to debunk their existence.

Prof. James McDonald, 47, senior physicist of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and professor in the department of meteorology at the University of Minnesota, said he had no scientific explanation for the visits.

But he told newsmen here that

scientific proof of flying saucers and acceptance of their existence had been delayed by a deliberate debunking program arranged by many governments and backed by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

McDonald, who was in Sydney to investigate sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) seen over Australia, said he did not believe there was a CIA conspiracy to cover up the truth but rather that they were trying to sweep the problem under the carpet.

This, he said, was a device to solve the problem of the large number of operatives tied up on UFO sightings.

Over the last two weeks, McDonald made tape records of the experiences of 70 Australians who claimed to have seen flying saucers.

Some of his reports he believed authentic were:

A flying saucer that followed a car at up to 115 M.P.H. until the car almost crashed.

Another saucer that gave some

Gippsland, Eastern Victoria, people a hair-raising experience when it swept in at them at tree-top height.

A UFO that caused the lights of an automobile to end in a manner scientifically impossible to explain.

A sighting in New Guinea by a clergyman and 30 others of a saucer that hovered above the sea.

Asked to explain the UFO phenomenon, McDonald said a possible explanation was that

the saucers were an "anthropological probe" from another and much more advanced civilization.

"But this is mere unscientific speculation and I would not like it to be treated as anything but that," he added.